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PATENT
02931-P0062A WWW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants | Beat Krattiger, <i>et al.</i> |
| Application No. 10/694,577 | Filing Date: October 27, 2003 |
| Title of Application: | Optical Instrument, in Particular an Endoscope, Having an Interchangeable Head |
| Confirmation No. 3456 | Art Unit: 3736 |
| Examiner | John P. Leubecker |

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response To Requirement Of Species Election

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the outstanding Office Action dated December 5, 2005.

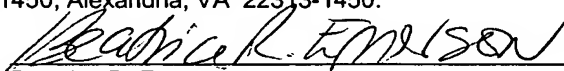
Applicant hereby elects the Species of second transmission system:

- 1) optics arranged in interchangeable head and shaft.
- 2) image pick-up arranged in interchangeable head.

Applicants submit that claims 2-5, 7, 17-20, and 23-27 read on the elected species. Generic claims readable on both species of first and second transmission system are claims 1 and 9-16.

Mailing Certificate: I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as *First Class Mail* in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks; Post Office Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

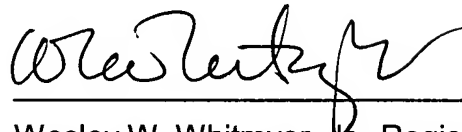
January 4, 2006


Beatrice R. Emerson

Page 2
Serial No 10/694,577
Election Pursuant to Restriction Requirement

Respectfully submitted,

January 3, 2006



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